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PROGRAM	Communique	STATION	WETA Radio NPR Network
DATE	March 7, 1980	6:30 PM	CITY Washington, DC
SUBJECT	The Legal Authority and Accountability of the CIA		

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER: We also need clear and quick passage of a new charter to define the legal authority and accountability of our intelligence agencies. We will guaranty that abuses do not recur. But we must tighten our controls on sensitive intelligence information, and we need to remove unwarranted restraints on America's ability to collect intelligence.

ANNOUNCER: In his recent State of the Union address, President Carter called for greater operating freedom for the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies. The Administration wants to step up their use, especially in the area of covert activities, as a tool of American foreign policy.

This edition of Communique examines the controversy surrounding the changes planned for the intelligence community. Our host is Morton Kondracke, executive editor of The New Republic magazine.

MORTON KONDRACKE: In the history of the world, it's probably never happened that a country could reconcile its needs for secret intelligence operations with the ideals of democracy. Few have ever tried. Some would say that the two goals are inherently antithetical. Democracy implies openness, accountability, popular control, and respect for law. Spying involves secrecy, conspiracy, deniability, and often the breaking of laws.

Most countries resolve the dilemma by spying and not worrying about the implications. For much of our history, the United States has avoided the dilemma by avoiding intelligence operations. We did no peacetime spying until after World War II, when the Central Intelligence Agency was founded.